

or research costs. Now is the time to act. I urge my colleagues to end this discrimination by supporting a comprehensive benefit for all Medicare beneficiaries.

#### RECOGNIZING UNIVERSITY OF UTAH ON ITS 150TH ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. COOK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to recognize the University of Utah's 150th anniversary. On February 28, 1850, the Utah State Assembly ordained the University of the State of Deseret, better known today as the University of Utah. Since its creation, the University of Utah has conferred over 180,000 degrees, making it the State's most profuse provider of higher education. In addition to its educational excellence, the university is also a leader in cultural, social, scientific, economic, medical and artistic contributions.

I would like to take this time to honor the faculty, staff, and students of the University of Utah for enriching the great State of Utah and the Nation. Today with undergraduate and graduate enrollment nearing 26,000 and students representing all 29 counties, all 50 States, and 102 foreign countries, I am proud to say that the University of Utah is indeed a diverse population bringing together great ideas. I know this because my wife and I both graduated from The U in 1969. We are proud to be part of the university's educational excellence, and I am honored to speak on its 150th anniversary.

#### ON INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I begin a series of 1-minutes that recognize the enormous problem this Nation has with children who have been abducted internationally. Last week I met with six parents from across the country whose children have been taken from them and are being held in foreign countries. I had the opportunity to sit down with them, to look into their eyes and to hear their stories. And the pain that they experience on a daily basis is heart wrenching.

There are 10,000 American children who have been taken to foreign countries; and it is time for Congress, the media, and the American people to focus their attention on these children and bring them home to their rightful parents. These stories are about families, about reuniting children and parents. When we look at a globe, we may see boundaries; but when it comes to reuniting families, we must know no boundaries.

Tomorrow I will tell the story of Saif Ahmed, a young boy from my home-

town who was abducted by his father and is now being illegally held in Egypt. The meetings last week and the 1-minute addresses that will tell the story of these international abductions are just the first steps in what will be an ongoing dialogue with the American people to bring our children home.

#### CENSUS 2000

(Mr. MILLER of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the census is just weeks away. In fact, in remote regions of our Nation such as Alaska, the enumeration has already begun. Next month, 119 million households will receive their census forms in the mail. One of the most important tools the bureau is using to promote returning census forms is called the Census in the Schools project, which strives to help students learn what a census is and why it is important to them, their families, and the community; increase participation in the census 2000; to galvanize students, teachers, and families to support the census; and to recruit teachers and parents to work as census takers and in other support jobs.

I have participated in several of these census in the schools programs in my district and here in the District of Columbia. I can say firsthand that the children get enthusiastic about supporting the census and getting their parents to return the forms. I encourage all my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans, to conduct a census in the schools program in their district to promote this vital, important civic responsibility.

#### IT IS TIME TO DUMP THE TAX CODE

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, our Tax Code costs us \$140 billion a year. There are over 200 forms. All our income, savings, education, and investments are taxed. Even business taxes are passed on to us. We are even taxed for marital sex. Beam me up. It is time to pass a flat national retail sales tax, 15 percent. No more income taxes, no more taxes on savings, no more forms, no more deadlines, no more accountants, no more lawyers, no more receipts, no more Internal Revenue Service. It is time, ladies and gentlemen of Congress.

I yield back this Communist, un-American Tax Code by saying to both parties: tax this.

#### SIGN THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG DISCHARGE PETITION

(Mr. UDALL of New Mexico asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today Members of this Chamber will have the opportunity to sign the prescription drug discharge petition that will bring this issue to the floor of this body. Members will have to decide, will they help the people of their districts or continue the price discrimination of the big drug companies?

Many New Mexicans have told me how the high cost of prescription drugs affects their lives. One of my constituents, Suzette Binder of Santa Fe, wrote to me:

We are crippled financially because of diabetic pill costs for which there is no generic brand. We live in retirement on the same money we had 10 years ago. But the money goes like the wind and drug costs are one of the major causes. Do what you can.

Mr. Speaker, during the January recess, I heard from many people that expressed similar sentiments to me. I firmly believe widespread price discrimination is wrong.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to sign the petition. No one in America should ever have to decide between needed medication and food.

#### HOUSE IS WORKING TO ELIMINATE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY AND SENIOR EARNINGS PENALTY

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, this House is making progress. This past week we passed legislation to address what I consider to be the most unfair aspect of the Tax Code, the marriage tax penalty suffered by 25 million married working couples who pay \$1,400 on average in higher taxes just because they are married.

Later on today in the Committee on Ways and Means, we are going to move legislation that eliminates the earnings penalty on senior citizens who are on Social Security who need to continue working or who want to continue working and right now they are punished. In fact, \$2 out of \$3 of their Social Security benefits if they earn more than \$17,000 are taxed and taken away just because they want to work. That is wrong. That is what that is all about. We want to bring fairness to the Tax Code. That is why we worked to eliminate the marriage tax penalty.

My hope is our friends in the Senate will join with us. My hope is those on the other side of the aisle will join with us and make it a bipartisan effort to eliminate the marriage tax penalty and to eliminate the earnings penalty on our senior citizens. It is all about fairness.